

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly Newscast

January 17th, 2014

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) allowed	a) watch people record events and actions
	2) national	b) protection safety
	3) security	c) caught by police taken to jail
	4) surveillance	d) the whole country public
	5) insisted	e) improper not good
	6) arrested	f) strongly said demanded
	7) unacceptable	g) to be able to given permission

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

SWAT - "Special Weapons And Tactics" a special police force that works in high risk events

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. The story of a man, who got on a flight in Edmonton with a pipe bomb, _____.	a) made the eighteen year old famous b) made the national news
2. The teen was allowed on a flight on _____ after he was caught with the pipe bomb.	a) December 20 th b) September 20 th
3. Security found the pipe bomb in the teen's _____.	a) camera bag b) carry-on luggage
4. The surveillance video shows the security guard tried to _____.	a) give the pipe bomb back to the teen b) keep the pipe bomb
5. The RCMP were told _____.	a) four days after the event b) when the teen returned from Mexico
6. The federal transport minister called it "unacceptable" that _____.	a) the security guard tried to return the pipe bomb b) someone found with a pipe bomb was allowed on a flight

Discussion Question

What do you think should happen to the teenager who had a pipe bomb in his bag?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

convert (one who has changed)	rebel (against the government)	reportedly (said to be)
sources (people with information)	injured (hurt)	battle (fight)
captured (to be caught)	foreign (from another country)	consist of (to have)

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

extremists – persons with strong political or religious beliefs

infighting – fighting at close range; fighting among those in the same group

1. I was thankful no one was _____ in the accident.
2. Journalists must find reliable _____ to get facts for their stories.
3. We are fortunate in Canada to be able to try many different _____ foods.
4. My class _____ 18 students from 10 different countries.
5. In some countries, there are _____ groups that want to change how their country is run (controlled).
6. My friend was against vaccinations until he watched a documentary about how they save lives. Now, he is a _____.
7. I saw on the news that the thieves were _____ by the police.
8. The thieves were _____ trying to sell the car they had stolen.
9. Every night, it is a _____ to get my four year old to eat his dinner.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **True** or **False**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ A young Albertan man has died fighting in Syria.
2. ____ Clairmont was a Canadian born into a Muslim family.
3. ____ Clairmont left Calgary in November 2013 to go to Syria.
4. ____ Clairmont was killed by the Free Syrian Army.
5. ____ Some sources say the Canadian was captured and killed after he was injured in battle.
6. ____ It was said that Clairmont was fighting with other foreign-born extremists against an Al-Qaeda group.

Discussion Question

Why do you think some young Canadians choose to fight in wars in other countries?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. expansion	a) the most unattractive
	2. oilsands	b) a few words or sentences about something
	3. sites	c) to have gotten larger
	4. ugliest	d) to collect money for a cause
	5. defend	e) needs; depends on
	6. statement	f) places, locations
	7. relies	g) created or made
	8. resources	h) a mix of oil and sand found in northern Alberta
	9. developed	i) to stand up for; to help protect
	10. fundraising	j) materials that can be used by people

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

criticize – to point out the faults or mistakes of others

out of control – to lack the ability to control; not being logical about decisions or actions

to some degree – in some part, even a small part; a little bit

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Who is Neil Young?
2. What has Neil Young criticized the Canadian government about?
3. What did Young say about the oilsands site he visited?
4. What did a spokesperson from the Prime Minister's Office say in defense?
5. What is Young doing in Winnipeg, Regina and Calgary?
6. What is the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation fighting against?

Discussion Questions

How do Canadians benefit from the oilsands? Are these benefits more important than Alberta's environment?

Language Focus

Reported Speech

We use reported speech to explain what another person says or believes. When we report what another person says we often use 'reporting verbs' like **say, tell, explain, call, report, believe, thought, ask...** etc.

When we are reporting what another person says and the action was in the past, we may choose to leave the verb in the past tense. Here are examples from this week's stories:

*"Murphy **says** he **placed** the bomb there in February 2013 and **forgot** about it."*

*"Young **says** he **visited** one of 50 oilsands sites and that it **was** the ugliest thing he's ever seen."*

Often when we are reporting what another person said, we change the verb tense. We change the verb tense backwards – that is moving it one tense in the past.

Tense	Direct Speech	Reported Speech
present simple → simple past	"The oilsands look ugly."	Young thought the oilsands looked ugly.
present continuous → past continuous	"I am going to Mexico."	He explained that he was going to Mexico.
past simple → past perfect	"I forgot about the pipe bomb."	Murphy said he had forgotten about the pipe bomb.
past continuous → past perfect continuous	"Clairmont was fighting with an Al-Qaeda rebel group."	Sources explained that Clairmont had been fighting with an Al-Qaeda rebel group.
present perfect → past perfect	"Neil Young has criticised the Canadian government."	CBC reported Young had criticised the Canadian government.

Note: If we are using the exact words that another person says, we should use quotation marks around that person's words and we do not change the verb tense. Here is an example.

*A spokesman from the Prime Minister's Office defended the oilsands and **said** in a statement, "Even the lifestyle of a rock star relies, to some degree, on the resources developed by thousands of hard-working Canadians every day."*

Try using reported speech to explain one of the stories you heard Don Bell talk about this week.

Transcripts of Weekly News Stories

	JANUARY 17 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Carla Beynon. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for January 17 th .	0:00
Story 1	The story of a man, who was allowed to get on a flight at the Edmonton International Airport, even though he had a pipe bomb, made national news this past week. Eighteen-year-old Skylar Murphy was allowed to get on a flight at the airport on September 20 th after he was caught with a pipe bomb by security. The device was found in a camera bag. Murphy says he placed the bomb there in February of 2013 and forgot about it. Video surveillance shows the security guard who found the bomb tried to give it back to Murphy and told him he could keep it. Murphy insisted the guard take it. He then got on board a plane to Mexico. RCMP weren't told until four days later. The day Murphy returned from Mexico, he was arrested by a SWAT team. Federal Transport Minister Lisa Raitt calls it "unacceptable" that someone found with a pipe bomb was allowed to continue on with their flight.	0:11
Story 2	A 22-year-old Calgary man has died in the fighting in Syria. Damian Clairmont was a Canadian-born Muslim convert who left Calgary for Syria in November 2012. He was killed by the Free Syrian Army during rebel infighting. According to sources in Syria and Canada, Clairmont was injured in battle, and then captured and killed in the city of Aleppo. Clairmont was reportedly fighting with an Al-Qaeda rebel group consisting of many foreign-born extremists.	01:17
Story 3	Canadian singer Neil Young has criticised the Canadian government, saying it's "completely out of control" when it comes to the environment and oilsands expansion. Young says he visited one of 50 oilsands sites and that it was the ugliest thing he's ever seen. A spokesman from the Prime Minister's Office defended the oilsands and said in a statement, "Even the lifestyle of a rock star relies, to some degree, on the resources developed by thousands of hard-working Canadians every day." Young will be performing at fundraising concerts in Winnipeg, Regina and Calgary. The tour is in support of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and its fight against Shell Canada's Jackpine mine, as well as other First Nations fighting oilsands projects.	01:54

Appendix - Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the Story	Related Words
g	1) allowed	a) watch people record events and actions
d	2) national	b) protection safety
b	3) security	c) caught by police taken to jail
a	4) surveillance	d) the whole country public
f	5) insisted	e) improper not good
c	6) arrested	f) strongly said demanded
e	7) unacceptable	g) to be able to given permission

Listening

1. The story of a man, who got on a flight in Edmonton with a pipe bomb, _____.	a) made the eighteen year old famous b) made the national news
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5. The RCMP were told _____.	a) four days after the event b) when the teen returned from Mexico
6. The federal transport minister called it "unacceptable" that _____.	a) the security guard tried to return the pipe bomb b) someone found with a pipe bomb was allowed on a flight

News story 2

Vocabulary

- I was thankful no one was injured in the accident.
- Journalists must find reliable sources to get facts for their stories.
- We are fortunate in Canada to be able to try many different foreign foods.
- My class consists of 18 students from 10 different countries.
- In some countries there are rebel groups that want to change how their country is run (controlled).
- My friend was against vaccinations until he watched a documentary about how they save lives.
Now, he is a convert.
- I saw on the news that the thieves were captured by the police.

8. The thieves were reportedly trying to sell the car they had stolen.
9. Every night, it is a battle to get my four year old to eat his dinner.

Listening

1. T A young Albertan man has died fighting in Syria.
2. F Clairmont was a Canadian **born into a Muslim family**.
3. F Clairmont left Calgary in November **2013** to go to Syria.
4. T Clairmont was killed by the Free Syrian Army.
5. T Some sources said the Canadian was captured and killed after he was injured in battle.
6. F It was said that Clairmont was fighting with other foreign-born extremists **against** an Al-Qaeda group.

News story 3

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
c	1. expansion	a) the most unattractive
h	2. oilsands	b) a few words or sentences about something
f	3. sites	c) to have gotten larger
a	4. ugliest	d) to collect money for a cause
i	5. defend	e) needs; depends on
b	6. statement	f) places, locations
e	7. relies	g) created or made
j	8. resources	h) a mix of oil and sand found in northern Alberta
g	9. developed	i) to stand up for; to help protect
d	10. fundraising	j) materials that can be used by people

Listening

1. Who is Neil Young?
A Canadian singer.
2. What has Neil Young criticized the Canadian government about?
Young has criticised the Canadian government, saying it's "completely out of control" when it comes to the environment and oilsands expansion.
3. What did Young say about the oilsands site he visited?
Young says he visited one of 50 oilsands sites and that it was the ugliest thing he's ever seen.
4. What did a spokesperson from the Prime Minister's Office say in defense?
A spokesman from the Prime Minister's Office defended the oilsands and said in a statement, "Even the lifestyle of a rock star relies, to some degree, on the resources developed by thousands of hard-working Canadians every day."
5. What is Young doing in Winnipeg, Regina and Calgary?
Young will be performing fundraising concerts.
6. What is the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation fighting against?
They are fighting against Shell Canada's Jackpine mine.